

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

3443 Routier Road, Suite A, Sacramento, California 95827

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
and
NOTICE OF FILING OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS
concerning
**AMENDING THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE CONTROL OF
MERCURY IN CLEAR LAKE , LAKE COUNTY**

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) to establish water quality objectives for methylmercury and to establish an implementation plan to reduce the concentration of mercury in fish, water, and sediments of Clear Lake. As part of amending the Basin Plan, the Regional Board will consider certification of the draft "functionally equivalent" environmental documents prepared pursuant to Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code and Title 23 California Code of Regulations sections 3775-3782. The public hearing will be part of a regular meeting of the Regional Board at the time and location noted below:

Date: September 6, 2002
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: City of Redding Council Chambers
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, CA 96001

On May 22, 2002, the Regional Board staff conducted a workshop to receive comments from the public on issues that should be considered in amending the Basin Plan. Based on comments received in writing and at the workshop, staff has prepared a report that summarizes the issues identified and presents staff recommendations.

Staff is proposing for Regional Board consideration a site specific methylmercury objective for Clear Lake in Lake County. The proposed objective consists of a methylmercury concentration in fish tissue. To achieve the methylmercury objective, staff is proposing an implementation plan to reduce mercury loads to Clear Lake. The objective and implementation plan apply only to Clear Lake. Draft environmental documents have been prepared for the proposed amendments which conclude that the proposals will have no significant adverse impacts on the environment .

The draft staff report for the proposed amendments, which includes the environmental documentation required under CEQA, may be obtained by contacting Patrick Morris at (916) 255-3121 or morrisp@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov. The draft staff reports are also available for downloading at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/available_documents/ under the heading **Basin Plans**.

In order to be included in the written response to comments that is a part of the final administrative record, written comments should be submitted by **August 22, 2002** to Patrick Morris, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 3443 Routier Road, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95827. At the hearing on September 6, 2002, staff will summarize the written comments and present a final recommendation for Regional

Board consideration. Interested persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral comments to the Regional Board at the hearing.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 255-3039 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

KENNETH D. LANDAU, Assistant Executive Officer

10 July 2002